**April 2024**

**Dear parents/carers**

I trust that you had a happy and restful Easter break. A massive welcome back to your children in an important half term where Yr11 students commence their GCSE exams. Below is my monthly newsletter that is shorter than usual due to the break. Nonetheless, it has important information and good news to tell. I hope that you enjoy reading it.

**Catholic Life of the school update**

* During last term St Anne's Caritas Ambassadors along with the St Anne’s community were hard at work helping raise money for *Mary’s Meal's*, which was our annual Lenten charity. The aim was to raise enough to send 100 children to school in a year and thanks to an amazing team effort we managed to do exactly that and raise an incredible **£1144.48.** This is enough to send 119 children to school. Our Caritas Ambassadors would like to say a massive thank you to all the staff, students and parents who all got involved in making this possible. And I would like to say thanks to Mrs Hanley-Parchment who organised and led this fund-raising initiative.
* The RE Team have been busy preparing our Catholic Life SACRED Day which will take place on July 5th next half term. This year the theme will be *‘Service’* and a whole host of excellent external speakers/experts are already booked in to use creative arts such as music and mime to communicate the gospel and reaffirm our students and staff in the importance of Service.
* Also, this month Beth from ‘*Christians in Schools’* will deliver sessions to KS3 students on *'Why is Jesus so radical?'*. Students will be given the opportunity to work in groups in the chapel for the session exploring bible passages around Jesus' actions that were considered radical at the time, such as discipleship for women, standing up for the poor, choosing God over profit and pacifism. We thank Beth from ‘*Christians in Schools’* for her continued work in our school in providing our students these formation experiences.

**Building Leadership for the future**

Over the past few years St Anne’s has had a *temporary* senior leadership structure, called the Extended Leadership Team. This has worked really well as we achieved the best GCSE results ever in terms of progress and we achieved a ‘good’ Ofsted judgment for the first time. These are ‘accolades’ that the community should be very proud of and were the result of a combination of factors including hard work, an embedded culture that instilled belief in students and staff and much improved support from the wider community, including parents. However, now is the time to appoint permanent Assistant Headteachers who will form part of the leadership who will be relentless in ensuring that St Anne’s provides at least a good quality of education for the great students here.

**Yr11 update**

As I write this it is only a few days away from the official start of the GCSE exams. I am very proud of the great staff here who have all ‘gone the extra mile’in the true spirit of the *‘St Anne’s Way’* to prepare them to be successful in the forthcoming GCSEs. I am equally delighted that the majority of students have responded well to this genuine support. I hope that the students get what they deserve on results day in August. A few updates for your perusal.

* *Easter Revision:* Feedback from staff indicated that this was successful. This attitude and maturity shown bodes well for their results this August. In a recent assembly, I shared many positive teacher comments.
* *Period 6 Intervention:* This will continue for the next week. When the exams start, there will be a new after school intervention schedule issued. Students will be given this timetable.
* *Independent learning.* It is vital that students are working independently each night and at weekends. This should be up to three hours a night and at the weekends too.
* *Expectations*: Over the next few months, we will have the same expectations of student behaviour and the following of our simple rules. This includes ensuring they are wearing the correct uniform. Please support the school.
* *Attendance*. I have repeatedly said there is a strong correlation between attendance and attainment. Poor or irregular attendance results in lower outcomes. The aim over the next few weeks must be 100% attendance.
* *Stress:* This can be a stressful time. At St Anne’s we have strong pastoral systems. I ask that parents look out for signs of stress and encourage/support your child through the next few weeks.
* *Believe to Achieve.* This is the mantra we have instilled in our students. Students who have belief and confidence are more likely to achieve or surpass their targets. Students must remain positive during the exam period, believe in themselves, and take one exam at a time.

**Yr10 update**

Last week was the annual Yr10 parents’ evening. Turn-out by parents has improved greatly and Ms Sutcliffe, Head of School, said that the atmosphere of the evening was *“very positive and purposeful”.* This bodes well for the future. However, it is important that parents make maximum effort to attend parental evenings as it is by working together that your child achieves their best in their GCSE exams. These evenings impart useful information.

A few weeks ago, I delivered an assembly to Yr10 students to praise the majority of the year group on their maturity, attitude towards their studies and conduct in school. However, it is disappointing that a small number of Yr10 students believe that they can either be rude/disrespectful to staff or disrupt the learning of others. Students in Yr10 are doing the GCSE work and their focus should be on hard work and learning. Any student in Yr10 who repeatedly undermines our transparent, fair, and accepted rules will put their place at St Anne’s at risk. Sadly, some students have not heeded my warnings. For the avoidance of doubt, I will not tolerate either rudeness or disruption of others’ learning.

**Yr9 options and parents’ evenings**

A massive thank you to the many parents who attended our recent Yr9 Parents’ and Options evening. It was great to see so many of you there supporting your children and being involved in the next steps of their education. It was the highest turnout we have had, much to Mr Donnelly's (Head of Yr9) delight and reflects the great partnership between parents and school. Mr Ostmeier, Deputy Headteacher, delivered an informative presentation and I trust you found our subject stalls giving KS4 information useful and we are now reviewing the options. As always, we will do our best to allocate first choices, but this is always subject to timetable constraints and ensuring the course is viable. Information is now on our website. Y9 Options | St Anne's (www.stannes.academy)

**Want a tour of the school during the day?**

As a school community we are always willing to show off the positive atmosphere during the busy school day. Therefore, we will operate an open-door policy for you to visit St Anne’s and tour the school **every Friday morning from** **9.15-10am** to meet our staff and students and I will take you on a tour around the school. This is also an excellent opportunity to ask me any questions. Please ring reception to ‘book’ a tour. I look forward to seeing you.

**Teaching & Learning update**

Over the next few months, we are continuing the momentum of embedding *Formative Assessment* across all curriculum subjects. During lesson observations the teaching and learning group has observed significant increases in disciplinary literacy that is effective and relevant to each subject taught. Stronger inclusive provisions for students with SEND provisions and effective implementation of formative questions to check for student understanding. On our joint journey to being ‘outstanding in everything we do’ we have seen more homework’s set than in previous years and more students completing homework tasks on flip learning, recapping, or stretching, providing students at St Anne’s with the opportunity to achieve academic success.

**Staff profiles**

In this newsletter I will share the profile of the PE staff as there is a summer of impending sports activities, including sports day.

* *Mr Andrews, Head of PE.* I attended Werneth High School and due to a serious knee injury at the start of Yr11 it meant my dream of playing football professionally seemed unlikely, prompting me to work hard to collect 10 good GCSEs. I was offered a full-time contract with Stockport County and had a brilliant time as part of one of SCFC's most successful youth teams. A highlight for me was scoring the winner against Manchester United's -18s at Carrington, a club I have always supported. A less than convincing game against Birmingham City reserves saw me released from my contract in the summer of 2002. With no idea of what I would really like to do, I worked as a private investigator with my father, but I needed a career that was more ‘active’. I started my PE degree at Manchester Met University and worked hard to gain a 2:1 with qualified teacher status. I also played for the university football team. A fortuitous moment saw me land a role in a Nike advert with Wayne Rooney that paid for my chance to travel to America and delayed the start of my teaching career... something I will always remember fondly. My NQT year was spent in Bolton before I took a post at Bury C of E High. After experience as Head of Year and Head Boys' PE, I was offered the Director of Boys' Sport at Bury Grammar. I always felt I had the best of both worlds playing semi-professional football and combining this with my teaching career. Retiring fully at 40 last year was difficult, but I occupy my spare time with my children's activities and playing tennis competitively for Heaton Mersey.  I arrived at St Anne's RC after the pandemic and fresh perspective on wanting to work closer to where I lived. I have absolutely loved being part of the St Anne's journey and giving students the opportunity to play sport - something I place huge value on knowing how much sport has given me.
* *Miss Burton, PE teacher*. I have been employed at St Anne’s since September 2023. I am a dedicated professional with a passion for sports and education. Throughout my studies at college, where I studied a BTEC Sport course, I completed a Level 3 Personal Training Qualification and have a background in Sports Science from Manchester Metropolitan University. Following this, I completed my PGCE at the University of Cumbria, specialising in Secondary Physical Education. My enthusiasm for sports developed at a young age, particularly playing basketball since being 11 years old and I currently play for *Stockport Lapwings*. My adventurous spirit is evident through my recent experiences, including white water rafting at Lee Valley, skydiving from 15,000ft, and climbing the O2 Arena. I am driven by a desire to inspire others through sport and outdoor activities hoping to increase the participation and enjoyment for girls at St Anne’s through sport!
* *Mr Gallagher, PE Teacher*. I grew up in Edgeley, Stockport, before moving to Hazel Grove. I attended Harrytown Catholic High School. After achieving 7 GCSE’s I knew I wanted to pursue a career within sport. I continued my education at Aquinas College, studying PE and Science and this continued into university where my love for sport turned into a vocation to become a PE Teacher. I went on to study at Sheffield Hallam University, and lectures were at the English Institute of Sport. A fantastic facility which allowed me to meet the likes of Jessica Ennis and Antony Joshua who regularly trained there. After graduating, I travelled before pursuing a career in teaching. On New Years eve 2019, I travelled to Buenos Aires and the plan was to spend two years travelling South America then go to Australia. Unfortunately, in 2020 COVID struck, and I was stuck in the highest altitude town in South America with all planes grounded and no means to get back home. Thankfully, the French pulled through and charted three flights to take us back to Paris, still leaving me in a predicament as Paris wasn’t my home. After two days in Paris airport, we returned to London. After returning home, I signed up to start my teacher training year. Then in September 2022 I joined St Anne’s High School.

**Sparx Readers**

A massive well done to our wonderful Sparx Readers! Lots of students are now engaging in independent reading which is hugely beneficial to their learning and growing as young people. A significant number of students have achieved 100% on their reading this term. Great to hear!

**Support the St Anne’s team this June!**

In June, a group of staff at St Anne’s, including teachers and support staff, are taking part in the *‘Race for Life - Pretty Muddy’* which is afund-raising event organised by Cancer Research UK. In fact, the Race for Life is the United Kingdom’s biggest series of fundraising events. The team signed up for this event to raise money for cancer. Our brave and courageous St Anne’s team will be climbing, crawling, and sliding their way to beat cancer… in a little bit of mud of course! If you would like to donate to the St Anne’s team, please follow the link below. Any donations, big or small, will be greatly received as will any words of wisdom and encouragement! At the time of writing a magnificent £1,222 had been raised! <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/team/team-st-annes-rc>.

**Finally… a date for your diary!**

St Anne’s annual celebration evening will be taking place on **Wednesday 10th July**. This is my favourite night of the year where we formally celebrate both the individual successes of our children and the overall successes of St Anne’s as a strong, united, and caring Catholic community. The theme this year is ***‘Celebrating the St Anne's Way’.*** I believe that there is a lot to celebrate. Watch this space for further details!

Here is to some sunshine over the next few weeks and on behalf the St Anne’s staff, a massive ‘Good Luck’ to all the Yr11 students in their forthcoming GCSEs.

Mr Logue

Executive Headteacher